

SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION.

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

RESOLUTION REGARDING ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN A UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL GROUP

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 373, S. Res. 188.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 188) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Israeli membership in a United Nations regional group.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution and the preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution appear in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 188) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 188

Whereas, of the 185 member states of the United Nations, only the State of Israel is ineligible to sit on the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, or any other United Nations committee;

Whereas the State of Israel was created in response to a 1947 General Assembly resolution and joined the United Nations in 1949;

Whereas the members of the United Nations have organized themselves according to regional groups since 1946;

Whereas eligibility for election to the rotating seats of the Security Council, or other United Nations councils, commissions, or committees, is only available to countries belonging to a regional group;

Whereas Israel has remained a member of the United Nations despite being subjected to deliberate attacks which aimed to place the legitimacy of the State of Israel in question;

Whereas this anachronistic Cold War isolation of Israel at the United Nations continues;

Whereas barring a member of the United Nations from entering a regional group is inimical to the principles under which the United Nations was founded, namely, "to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights . . ."; and

Whereas Israel is a vibrant democracy, which shares the values, goals, and interests of the "Western European and Others Group", a regional group which includes Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) it should be the policy of the United States to support the State of Israel's efforts to enter an appropriate United Nations regional group;

(2) the President should instruct the Permanent Representative of the United States

to the United Nations to carry out this policy;

(3) the United States should—

(A) insist that any efforts to reform the United Nations, including the Security Council, also resolve this anomaly; and

(B) ensure that the principle of sovereign equality be upheld without exception; and

(4) the Secretary of State should submit a report to Congress on the steps taken by the United States, the Secretary General of the United Nations, and others to help secure Israel's membership in an appropriate United Nations regional group.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to P. L. 103-227, appoints the following individuals to the National Skill Standards Board:

Upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader: Tim C. Flynn, of South Dakota, Representative of Business; Jerald A. Tunheim, of South Dakota, Representative of Human Resource Professionals.

APPOINTMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER AND MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the two leaders, pursuant to provisions of S. Res. 98, agreed to July 25, 1997, the appointment of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) to the Global Climate Change Observer Group, vice the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN).

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—CONFERENCE REPORT TO AC-COMPANY H.R. 2400

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the ISTECA conference report notwithstanding the receipt of the papers and the reading be considered dispensed with.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts reserves the right to object.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, as I have discussed with the distinguished majority leader, I do not want to slow up the proceedings. I never have. I am trying to simply resolve a couple of last-minute details. So I am constrained to object, at least for a few moments, until Senator CHAFEE can finish doing what he is doing and we have a chance to confer. I assure my colleagues, this should not be a long-term process, and I hope we can resolve it very, very quickly, but I do object at this moment.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I understand, as one of the managers of the bill, we can speak at some length here.

But is there desire that someone wish to have a minute or two?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I was going to use about 2 minutes to thank the distinguished chairman of our subcommittee, the Senator from Virginia, and say kind things about him. But if he wishes—

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I yield the floor instantly.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to say a very quick word or two about the TEA-21, I believe, Transportation Efficiency Act of the year 2000 and to express my deep appreciation for the leadership that Chairman CHAFEE, Chairman WARNER and Senator BAUCUS have provided. This, as has been said, is one of the very largest bills that we have acted upon. It has an impact on each of our States and will have for the next 6 years.

It has been a very difficult fight to raise the dollars necessary and to allocate them fairly. I express the deepest appreciation to all three of my colleagues I mentioned.

I want to say what tremendous work has been done by the staff on the majority side, Jimmie Powell, Ann Loomis, Dan Corbett; on the minority side, Tom Sliter and Kathy Ruffalo.

On my own staff, Tracy Henke has worked literally hundreds of hours and has had very little sleep, as all of the staff on Environment and Public Works. They have done an outstanding job.

When we started this process, I said there were five essential goals: Increase the funding for highways. We need a bigger pie. We need, for the State of Missouri, to get a fair share. We must upgrade and repair deteriorating bridges. We need to put the trust back into the highway trust fund so that people who pay gas taxes into the trust fund will know that those gas taxes are coming back to build better roads, bridges, highways and transportation system. Finally, there should be flexibility so the States and localities can get the most for their money.

I am delighted they have approved all those principles. I note for the Record what I have noted in committees, in conferences, in individual discussions. I have grave and deep problems with and do not agree with the use of the funds from a newly and administratively created veterans' smoking program to offset the expenditures of the highway fund. I believe the highway fund should be spent for highways; veterans' funds should be spent for veterans. I have fought those battles; I have lost those battles because the President has insisted on using that as an offset. I intend to come back and work with colleagues, such as Chairman SPECTER of the Veterans' Committee, Senator MCCAIN, Senator SMITH and others to put a good veterans health care measure into the next vehicle, and I believe that is probably going to be the tobacco bill.